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BOOK NOTICES.

The Diplomatic History of America, The First Chapter, 1452-1493-1494. By Henry Harrisse. London, 4 Trafalgar Square, B. F. Stevens, Publisher. 1897.

Mr. Harrisse begins his work with an examination of the Portuguese claims to the Western World under the Papal grants, from the Bull of Nicholas V, of June 18, 1452, to that issued by Innocent VIII, September 12, 1484. These grants of "countries to be discovered towards the south and eastward, *usque ad Indos*," were held to include the Indies discovered by Columbus in his first voyage; but the three Bulls issued by Alexander VI, May 3 and 4, 1493, in response to the request made by Ferdinand and Isabella, established the Spanish title to all lands west of a meridian one hundred leagues west and south of the Azores and of Cape Verde. A fourth Bull, dated September 25, 1493, extended the field of maritime discovery in favour of Spain (always reserving countries already under the dominion of a Christian prince) in these words, translated by Mr. Harrisse from Navarrete:

We amplify the donation and extend it with all its clauses to all the islands and main lands whatever, discovered or to be discovered, which in sailing westwards or southwards are or appear in the western, or southern, or eastern parts, and in those of India (p. 66).

The treaty of Tordesillas, signed June 7, 1494, fixed a line of demarcation between the Spanish and the Portuguese jurisdiction at 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde islands; a line which varied, according to the estimated circumference of the earth and the length of the marine league, between the meridians of $42^{\circ} 30'$ and $49^{\circ} 45'$ west from Greenwich.

Mr. Harrisse's fifth chapter is recommended as wholesome reading to those persons in England and America who made haste, two years ago, to join a writer in the *London Times* in denouncing the Papal Bull of Demarcation as *comical* and *ridiculous*.

A map of the eastern part of Brazil, from the mouth of the Amazon to Cape St. Roque, shows the line of division as drawn by different cartographers.

Sixty pages of notes and a full index complete the book, which is well bound and well printed on excellent paper, though disfigured in too many places by careless proof-reading.

On p. 23, for instance, the Bull of Alexander VI is dated *in the*

year one thousand and ninety-three. On p. 25 *distet* appears for *distat*; on p. 28 *constitue* takes the place of *constitute*. On p. 157 we read *acquisitisant acquirendis* for *acquisitis aut acquirendis*.

These blunders may be laid at the door of the printer, but some one else is responsible for the whimsical *Amazona*, regularly used as the name of the Amazon, and for the two-headed paragraph on page 23, beginning with the words, *But forasmuch*.

The Statesman's Year-Book. Statistical and Historical Annual of the States of the World for the Year 1898. Edited by J. Scott Keltie, LL.D., Secretary to the Royal Geographical Society, Honorary Corresponding Member of the Geographical Societies of Paris, Berlin, Lisbon, Amsterdam, Brussels, Buda-Pest, Geneva, Neuchatel, and of the Commercial Geographical Society of Paris, with the Assistance of I. P. A. Renwick, M.A., LL.B. Thirty-fifth Annual Publication. Revised after Official Returns. London: Macmillan and Co., Limited. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1898.

The Year-Book for 1898 contains, like its immediate predecessor, 1118 pages of surprisingly accurate information. The maps are:

- I. Illustrating the Niger Question.
- II-V. Showing British Trade and Official Representation throughout the World.
- V-X. Diagrams of the Rise and Fall in Imports and Exports for the past Twenty-five Years.

The trade maps do not please the eye. The diagrams are better, but less desirable than well-made tables. The Niger map illustrates, in the words of the editor, the present critical position in that part of the world, where three great Powers have contrived with infinite pains to get in each other's way. What goes on in Africa is repeated elsewhere, and it was an oversight not to show more fully what statesmen are doing for mankind.

Geographical and Statistical Notes on Mexico. By Matias Romero. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London. The Knickerbocker Press, 1898.

In this handsome octavo volume the Mexican Minister at Washington has brought together, as he states in his preface, the several articles that he has published from time to time during his many years' residence in the United States, with a view to dispel errors prevailing here about Mexico, and so promote the good-will and increase the commercial, political and social relations between the two countries.